THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) The details of estimated plant wise crude steel production and capacity utilisation upto January 1997, during 1996-97, have been shown in the *statement* attached.

(b) to (d) Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO) was referred to BIFR in June, 1994. In August, 1996, SAIL had invited offers for participation in the revival/modernisation of IISCO through a joint venture arrangement with SAIL retaining majority shareholding of 51% in the joint venture company. SAIL had received offers from two parties viz. M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE) of Russia and M/s. Mitsui of Japan. M/s. Mitsui have since indicated their unwillingness for equity participation which is an essential requirement for selection of a Joint Venture Partner. Consequently at present there is only one offer available for revival of IISCO. In the meanwhile, SAIL have sought extension of time for a further period of 4 months from the BIFR.

As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

Statement

Estimated Plant-,wise crude steel production and capacity utilisation during April, 1996 to January, 1997.

('000 Tonnes)

	Production	% Capacity Utilisation
1. *Main Producers*		
(A) Steel Authority of India Limited.		
(i) Bhilai Steel Plant	3470.7	106.1
(ii) Durgapur Steel Plant	1009.6	67.3
(iii) Rourkela Steel Plant	1016.0	78.6
(iv) Bokaro Steel Plant	3053.9	91.6
(v) Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited.	292.2	97.4
(vi) Alloy Steels Plant	206.2	95.2
(vii) Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited.	75.1	77.6*
(B) Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	2583.2	101.6
(C) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	1831.5	81.4
2. *Secondary Producers*		
(i) Electric Arc Furnance Units	3575.1	55.3
(ii) Induction Furnace Units	2728.7	48.7

* Annual Plan is taken as capacity for Visvesvaraya Iron and

Gauge Conversion

1053. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has given consent of sharing of 1/3rd cost of gauge conversion of Dharangadhra-Kuda railway line in Gujarat;

(b) whether Salt Association has also conveyed his consent to bear 1/3rd cost of gauge conversion project; and

(c) if so, the time by which the above conversion work is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, in principle.

(c) In the coming years, subject to availability of resources and finalisation of cost sharing arrangement with Gujarat Government and Salt Association.

Expansion/Upgradation of Telecom System In Kashmir

1054. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated/utilised for development, expansion and upgradation of telecommunication system in rural/urban areas of Kashmir during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether the development of telecommunication in rural areas has been given the top priority and the implementation was very slow due to non-availability of funds and equipments;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that projects in hand for rural areas are completed without any further delay in the State; and

(d) the details of projects which are lagging behind the schedule for implementation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details in respect of Srinagar SSA are as per *statement*-I District-wise information is not available.

(b) Yes Sir. Though the funds and equipments were available, the development of telecommunications in rural areas has been delayed on account of law and order conditions in Kashmir.

(c) Periodic review of all projects is taken-up at the highest level and all efforts are being made to accomplish the projects.

(d) Details of projects lagging behind schedule in the State are as per *statement*-II.

Statement-I

Details of Funds Allocated Aid Utilised for Srinagar SSA

(All figures in Rupees)

Year	Funds Allocated	Funds Utilised		
		Rural	Urban	Total
1993-94	59624000	9201788	30030000	39231788
1994-95	133230000	7921235	32705343	40626578
1995-96	242604000	12050000	190708412	202758412

Statement-II

Details of Projects Lagging Behind Schedule

S.No.	Particulars of the Project
1.	Out of 28 Milt Exchanges to be installed only 13 have been installed.
2.	Out of 13 Nos. of 256 Port Exchanges only 4 have been installed.
3.	Out of 5 Nos. of 512 Port Exchanges only 1 has been installed.
4.	Out of 3 Main OCB 283 Exchanges only one main exchange has been installed. Other two are likely to be completed in 1997-98. One RSU is being completed by 31.3.1997.
5.	IDR Earth Station (Satellite), yet to be received/ installed.
6.	Out of 40 Nos. of Transmission System, six are nearing completion.
7.	OFC Scheme : (a) 34 MB OFC completed and ready for commissioning. (b) 140 MBPS-Two schemes under progress.

[Translation]

Use of Helicopters by Pawan Hans

1055. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Pawan Hans Limited has not made use of its fleet of nineteen helicopters during the last six years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check the wastage of funds?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) 19 Westland-30 helicopters were grounded due to safety reasons in 1991. However, the remaining fleet consisting of 27 helicopters is being used by Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.

(c) Action to dispose off the 19 Westland-30 helicopters has been initiated.

Facilities at Muzaffarnagar Station

1056. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to provide more facilities at Muzaffarnagar station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of additional facilities, likely to be provided at this station during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Work of provision of a foot-over-bridge from Mandi side at an anticipated cost of Rs. 25.02 lakh has been approved for inclusion in the Works Programme, 1997-98.

[English]

Backlog of various Posts

1057. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total backlog of reserved vacancies in different cadres/posts in the Indian Railways;

(b) the total number of posts filled up during 1996-97;

(c) whether the established criteria to clear the backlog was followed during the above period; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The number of identified backlog of reserved vacancies as on 30.6.96 for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Zonal Railways/Production Units in recruitment categories are as following :

	SC	ST
Group 'C'	941	950
Group 'D'	1183	1646

(b) Out of the (a) above the following has been filled up as on 31.1.97 :-

	SC	ST
Group 'C'	441	415
Group 'D'	518	344

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.